

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-12 and 16-21 are currently pending. Claims 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice for possible filing in one or more continuing applications at a later date.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has stated that certain references listed in the cited European Search Report for application EP 03 77 4230 would not be listed on the face of any patent resulting from the present application because the references were not provided on a separate list in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). However, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every reference listed on the European Search Report was also listed on the Information Disclosure Statement filed 02/08/2007. The European Search Report lists six (6) references, of which five (5) are US or foreign patent documents and one (1) is a non-patent literature reference, and the Information Disclosure Statement filed 02/08/2007 lists each of these references in the appropriate place on the form. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the Information Disclosure Statement filed 02/08/2007 and provide clarification of this issue.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not being directed to an eligible category of patentable subject matter. However, in view of the arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is traversed. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner argues that claim 1 is not directed to eligible subject matter because the claim recites a 'system' comprising more than one 'machine,' and that Section 101 permits patent coverage for a singular 'machine' but not plural 'machines.' However, it can be said that many patented inventions comprise several 'machines' that function together, and Applicant is not aware of any prohibition against claiming a system that comprises more than one 'machine.'

As but one example, US Patent 7,216,171 (also from Class 709) claims a network system that includes a terminal device and a server, each of which is a separate 'machine.' Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner either cite authority to support the assertion that a system of machines does not constitute patentable subject matter or withdraw the rejection.

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not being directed to an eligible category of patentable subject matter. However, in view of the fact that these claims have been canceled, the rejections have been rendered moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. However, in view of the fact that claim 13 has been canceled, the rejection has been rendered moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (US 2003/0105819). However, in view of the fact that claim 13 has been canceled, the rejection has been rendered moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim et al. in view of Kobayashi et al. (EP 1 022 664). However, in view of the fact that claims 14 and 15 have been canceled, the rejections have been rendered moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 7, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim et al. in view of Cano et al. (USP 7,127,720). However, in view of the arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are traversed. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Kim discloses a system and method for so-called “web collaborative browsing” using a known internet relay chat (IRC) server to transfer control messages between participating browser programs.

Cano discloses a method of pushing data to portions of web pages or other representations of the data for large numbers of users. “Pushing” data refers to sending data updates from a server to a web page without any request for the data from the web page, producing a one-way flow of information from server to web page (or other client). The push server is in control of when to send data and what data are sent.

In Cano, the portions of the web pages that are updated by the push server are called “live objects,” each having an object ID associated therewith. An activation module 124 provides to a remote server a list of the IDs for the objects that require updating by the push server, although it is important to note that this is simply a list of the fields that will be on the receiving end of data from the push server. Changes in these fields are a result of updates sent from the push server, and there is no mechanism in Cano for detecting changes in the live objects or for transmitting information regarding changes in the client web pages back to the push server.

An important feature of the presently-claimed system is the use of a separate, multi-function server (push sharing server 2100) which performs several functions related to real-time web sharing, including an allocating part 2150 for allocating an operator terminal, a customer managing part 2130, a customer communicating part 2110, and a substitute communicating part 2120 for communicating with the operator terminal. Kim makes use of known IRC servers, but these servers are only capable of transmitting control messages between browsers and do not perform the other functions of a real-time web sharing system. Cano does not teach a system for sharing a web page being viewed on a plurality of terminals. Instead, Cano teaches a one-

directional system for transmitting data from a server to a plurality of terminals in order to fill in fields on web pages on the terminals. There is no mechanism taught in Cano for detecting changes in the web pages on the terminals and transmitting that information to the other web pages or to the server.

Thus, the combination of Kim and Cano does not teach or suggest the elements of claims 1, 7, or 17, including a server sending or a terminal receiving “a detecting script which detects an update to the web page,” or means for sending a detecting script from a server or receiving the script on a terminal. The element of Cano that is cited by Examiner as being equivalent to the claimed detecting script, namely the activation module 124, does not detect changes on a client web page. As discussed above, Cano teaches the use of a push server that sends data to client web pages in a one-directional flow of information, and there is no mechanism for detecting changes in the client web pages or for sending information from the client web pages to the push server. Thus, Cano does not teach the sending or receiving of a detecting script for detecting an update to a web page, because Cano does not teach detecting changes in a web page. The activation module 124 gathers a list of object IDs for so-called “live objects” in a web page that will be the recipients of the pushed data from the server and sends this list of object IDs to the push server. However, this is not equivalent to detecting changes in the client web pages, since an independent change in a client web page in Cano would not be detected and sent to all of the other clients. Thus, Cano fails to supply the deficiencies of Kim and therefore the combination of Kim and Cano does not render obvious claims 1, 7, and 17.

The combination of Kim and Cano also fails to render obvious claim 16, since the combination of references does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 16. The Examiner argues that the input source 210 of Cano is equivalent to the claimed control frame and that the live objects are equivalent to the claimed sharing event. However, as discussed above Cano does not teach or suggest sharing web pages but instead teaches pushing data to large numbers of users, wherein the data is destined to be displayed in particular regions of web pages. The input source 210 simply feeds data (e.g. updated sports scores) to particular fields within a web page that have been previously identified by their object IDs. Thus, the input source 210 is

not “a web page for control” as recited in claim 16 but rather is just a source of data to fill certain fields identified by the object IDs. Cano fails to supply the deficiencies of Kim and therefore the combination of Kim and Cano does not render obvious claim 16.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim in view of Cano in further view of Kobayashi. However, in view of the arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are traversed. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The combination of Kim and Cano (the Examiner does not apply Kobayashi to the rejection of claim 11) fails to render obvious claim 11 because the combined references do not teach or suggest all of the claim elements. The Examiner argues that the live objects of Cano are equivalent to the claimed part update information. However, the live objects are the fields which are recipients of pushed data from the server and are not “part update information which notifies an update to a part provided on the web page,” as claimed. As discussed above, Cano does not teach a mechanism for obtaining updates to a web page since the flow of information is one-directional, from a server to the client web pages. Kim teaches a method of using a known IRC server to exchange messages with control information but does not teach a server that provides the other functions of a real-time web sharing system. For the reasons given above, Cano fails to supply the deficiencies of Kim and thus the combination of references fails to render claim 11 obvious.

Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12, and 21 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim in view of Cano in further view of Ohkado et al. (US Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2001/0016873). However, in view of the arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are traversed. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The combination of Kim, Cano, and Ohkado does not render claim 20 obvious because the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim elements. In addition to the arguments

presented above with regard to base claim 17, the combination of Kim, Cano, and Ohkado fails to teach or suggest elements of claim 20, including “said second terminal, when receiving the notification of the connection request from said server, enabling a Respond button which responds to this connection request and detecting the pressing of said Respond button,” “said second terminal, when detecting the pressing of said Respond button, notifying said server that the terminal is ready to respond to the connection request,” and “said server, when receiving the notification from said second terminal that the terminal is ready to respond to the connection request, retrieving the update information and part update information associated with the identification information of said first terminal.”

Ohkado does not teach or suggest a system in which the second terminal (agent) enables a Respond button in response to a connection request or detects the pressing of the Respond button, for example. The system of Ohkado automatically connects a first terminal (customer) to the second terminal (agent) as soon as the second terminal is available, with no requirement for the second terminal to respond to a connection request. Neither Kim nor Cano supplies the deficiencies of Ohkado, and thus the combination of references fails to render claim 20 obvious.

Claims 19 and 20 are allowable at least because each depends from an allowable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments presented herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned at the phone number below should any issues remain with respect to the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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